

N359

10-9-4 4  
National Herald, Chinese-American Daily News :-

"NO CLUES FOUND IN INVESTIGATION OF ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION  
OF MR. R.W. YORKE WHO STATES HE SAW THE CAPTURE OF A GUNMAN  
BY JAPANESE SOLDIER : PEOPLE BELIEVE CASE WILL REMAIN AN  
UNSOLVED MYSTERY"

According to news from foreign circles, Japanese authorities, through a spokesman, are maintaining that they know nothing about the arrest other than what they had read in the "China Press." Yesterday, Deputy Commissioner Reginald W. Yorke reiterated that he saw an oriental gunman captured by a uniformed Japanese gendarme after the unsuccessful attempt on his life last Friday morning. Thus, the motive of the attempt and the whereabouts of the gunman are shrouded in mystery.

Reliable quarters affirm that, according to an eye-witness, an oriental gunman was actually captured at the scene of the attempted assassination but was released by the Police Station a few minutes afterwards. The eye-witness further stated that he followed the gunman and two gendarmes and on turning the corner of a road he noticed the three men hold a short conversation, after which the gunman was released and made a hurried retreat. The eye-witness stated that he could not say whether the oriental gunman was a Chinese or a Japanese.

Although both the Shanghai Municipal Police and the Japanese authorities state that investigations are still in progress, well-informed quarters believe that this case will become another unsolved mystery. They point out that the gunmen who attacked Acting Commissioner Blanchet of the French Police are still at large, while the attempted assassination of Mr. Godfrey Phillips, Secretary and Commissioner-General of the Shanghai Municipal Council, is still unsolved.

2020/40.

2.

B'Well

September 12th., 40.

2. (O.O.L.).

The bullets picked up at the scene of the shooting have been examined by the Arms Identification Section and the following report was submitted,

"Two .38 Automatic Pistol Bullets  
were fired from two pistols and  
they have no previous records."

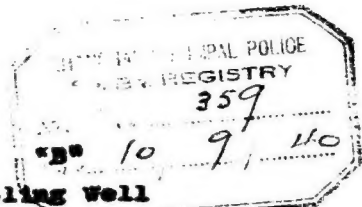
There has been no further developments in  
this case.

Sen. *[Signature]* 17/9

*[Signature]*  
D. S. I.

D.D.O. "B" Div.

INDEXED BY  
(S.S.) REGISTRY  
DATE 16/9/40



2020/40.

Bubbling Well

6th September

40

2 (O.O.L.)

9.15a.m.-9.40a.m.  
9.40a.m.--11a.m.  
11a.m. - 1.30pm.  
6-9-40.

Lane 749 Yu Yuen Road,  
Office,  
94 Jessfield Road.

Approximately 15 yards inside Lane 749 located on  
South side of Yu Yuen Road, about 800 yards East  
of Edinburgh Road.

9.10 a.m. 6-9-40.

9.15 a.m. 6-9-40.

Mr. R.W. Yerke, Deputy Commissioner, Shanghai  
Municipal Police/Shanghai Municipal Council.

Two not arrested:-

- (1) Age 28-30, height 5'6", round face, pale  
complexion, well built, wearing white foreign  
suit, no hat, long black hair parted in middle,  
brushed straight back, speaks good Shanghai  
dialect, but thought to be Korean. Armed with  
pistol.
- (2) Age 28-30, height 5'7", long face, pale  
complexion, with many freckles, wearing cream  
foreign suit, no hat, long dark hair brushed  
back, speaks good Shanghai dialect, but thought  
to be Korean. Armed with pistol.

Nil.

(d) Possibly political.

(e) The above described two persons approached Mr.  
Yerke's m/car, Lic. No. 8474, as he was leaving  
home for the office and producing automatic  
pistols attempted to assassinate him. (For  
full details see body of report).

REGISTRY  
359

17 9 40

" B

2020/40.

B'well

September 17th., 40.

3.

2. (O.O.L.).

Further to attached, I have to report that diligent enquiries conducted in the vicinity of the crime have not succeeded in obtaining any further useful information in regard to the would-be assassins.

*R. J. Tabern*  
Det. Insp.

D.D.O. "B" Div.

INDEXED BY  
(S.R.) REGISTRY  
DATE 17/9/40

At 9.20 a.m. 6-9-40 a telephone message was received at Bubbling Well Station from Chinese Police Watchman No.1617, reporting that armed gangsters had just attacked Mr. R.W. Yorke, Deputy Commissioner of Police, whilst he was leaving his home at Lane 749, House No. 7, Yu Yuen Road.

On receipt of above information the Station Alarm was rung, and all available men under Chief Inspector MacFarlane were in the act of proceeding to the location in question, when Mr. Yorke arrived at Bubbling Well Station riding in his m/car, licence No.8474, driven by Police Chauffeur Waung Sui Ling ( ), Permit No.5.

Mr. Yorke explained that he was uninjured and that his would-be-assassins had made good their escape West along Yu Yuen Road, where he had seen the 1st described overload, being arrested by a member of the Japanese Gendarmerie.

On receipt of this information D.S.I. Golobokoff in company of D.S.698 Nagamine were immediately dispatched to the scene of the crime, for purpose of, if possible, collecting witnesses and any other available evidence.

In the meantime the undersigned interviewed Mr. Yorke and obtained from him the following information:-

It would appear that for the past three or four days Mr. Yorke has been informed by his

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1 (Sheet 3)

suspicious characters loitering in the lane leading to his house and as a result has taken all necessary precautions.

At approximately 8.30 a.m. 6-9-40 Mr. Yorke was again informed of the presence of suspicious characters in the lane and as a result of an observation made from the window of his home saw the two described persons walking back and forward at the entrance to the lane.

At 9.05 a.m. 6-9-40 Mr. Yorke left his home, which is located on the East side of Lane 749, about 35 yards South of Yu Yuen Road, and on observing the two suspects standing on Yu Yuen Road, a few feet West of Lane 749, he took the precaution of placing his service pistol No.3552 into his jacket pocket.

Almost simultaneous to him boarding his m/car, and as same moved off in a Northerly direction towards Yu Yuen Road he observed the two suspects enter the lane and come towards him. Sensing something amiss Mr. Yorke took his pistol from his pocket and had just loaded same when he observed the 1st described would-be-assassin pull an automatic pistol from under his jacket and commence firing at him. Mr. Yorke immediately returned the fire and at the

2020/40(NW)

1 (Sheet 4)

same time his chauffeur accelerated the m/car engine. During the ensuing gun battle Mr. Yorke observed that both his would-be assassins were firing at him and at the same time, were hacking through a hedge, which runs on the West side of the lane. Arriving at Yu Tsan Road Mr. Yorke looked through the rear window of his car and in so doing observed the two males making their get-away East along Yu Tsan Road, also at this time he observed a member of the Japanese Gendarmarie standing on the South side of the roadway approximately 30 yards West of lane 749, and as these two men ran past this individual, he was seen by Mr. Yorke to arrest one of them.

Mr. Yorke then instructed his chauffeur to drive to Babbling Well Station, where on his m/car being examined, it was found to have been hit three times by bullets, viz:- One shot in the left hand side front mudguard, and two in the left hand side rear door. Further examination revealed three spent bullets and two empty cartridge cases inside the rear portion of the car.

These have since been forwarded to Arms Identification Section for examination and result will be given later.



Examination of Mr. Yorke's pistol revealed that he had fired seven rounds from same, in view of which and as the assassins must have fired at least as many shots a message was circulated to all hospitals enquiring for any one admitted suffering from bullet wounds.

At 9.45 a.m. 6-9-40, D.S.I. Goloskoff accompanied by D.S. Maguire returned from the scene of crime and reported having been unable to find any empty cartridge cases, and to having been informed by bystanders that same had been picked up by Chinese and taken away.

The above officers were successful in locating the following witnesses, who on being questioned, gave the following account of what they had seen:-

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 Kiu Tsui An (高祥安), age 17, native of Yangchow, S/shoe-maker, residing at No.2 Sung Ma Sah (沈家宅) Village, off Yu Yuen Road, and operating a stall at the entrance of Lane 749 Yu Yuen Road, states that for about one week past he has observed the two described persons loitering in the vicinity of Lane 749 Yu Yuen Road and that as a rule they used to arrive around 7 a.m. and remain until he left at 7 p.m.

2020/40(NW)

1 (Sheet 6)

During the day they would relieve one another presumably for purpose of taking food, but that always one of them remained in the vicinity. On occasions both himself and a Chinese Police Watchman No.1617 have conversed with them and on each occasion these two men have done so in Shanghai dialect, but irrespective of this, C.P.W.1617 has often expressed the belief that they were Koreans.

Continuing, this witness states how at approximately 9 a.m. 6-9-40, whilst he was busily engaged at his work at the entrance to Lane 740, he heard several shots being fired quite close to him and on looking up he observed the two described persons, both armed with automatic pistols firing at Mr. Yerin who was riding in his m/car and that at this time Mr. Yerin returned the fire causing the two men to decamp West on Ya Hui Road towards Birminghams Road and that after the 1st described person had gone about 10 yards he was assaulted by a Japanese Constabulary. However this man spoke to the Japanese, who immediately released him of him and together, both walked away quietly in the direction of Birminghams Road.

Chinese Police Watchman No.1617 named Kuo Wang Hsu (顧文華), age 39, native of Hunan, employed and residing

2020/40 (BW)

1 (Sheet 7)

at Lane 750 Yu Yuen Road, on being questioned, stated that since the 2nd or 3rd of September 1940, he has seen the two described persons loitering in the vicinity of Lane 749 and that on one occasion whilst he was discussing them with the previous witness he was approached by one of them, who in Shanghai dialect, enquired of them what they were talking about. Although on several other occasion these two men spoke to him, he is of the opinion that they are either Koreans or Japanese, inasmuch that their conversations have always been limited to passing the time of day and other trivial remarks, also their general appearance have suggested such.

Continuing this witness explains how at approximately 9 a.m. 8-9-40, whilst he was patrolling inside Lane 750 Yu Yuen Road, which is directly opposite to Lane 749, he heard several shots being fired and on running from the lane he was informed by bystanders that some persons had attempted to assassinate a foreigner, also seeing a car 5474 nearby. He immediately returned inside Lane 750, proceeded to House No. 18, and used the telephone in ringing Nanking Wall Station.

2020/40(IW)

1 (Sheet 3)

This witness did not actually witness the shooting nor did he see the men involved, but from the general description of the men given he identified them as the two men he had previously seen loitering in that vicinity.

As can be seen from the foregoing statements there appears to be no doubt as to the arrest of one of the would-be-assassins by a member of the Japanese Constabulary, also it would appear that the person so arrested did speak the Japanese language inasmuch as, that he was seen to talk to the Constabulary member, who, according to witnesses immediately released held of him and together walked away in the direction of Hillburgh Road.

In view of above D.S. Maganoo was requested to visit Japanese Constabulary Headquarters, 94 Sunnyside Road, and request any information concerning the arrest of one of these men.

This he did at 11 a.m. 8-9-40 and was informed that no such arrest had been made and that if such had been the case they would have known immediately inasmuch as that their Branch Office at 204 La Brea Road, which is located nearby to Lane 718 would have undoubtedly had knowledge of the occurrence. This

2020/40(BW)

1 (Sheet 9)

refutes the statements of all witnesses as made to the undersigned, who definitely state they saw a man be arrested.


Statements of witnesses are attached herewith.  
Informed:-

Commissioner of Police.

D. C. (Divisions).

D. O. "B" Division.

D.D.O. "B" Division.

  
Det. Inspector

D.D.O. "B" Div.

Kau Yuen An, age 17.

Yungchow

D.S.I. Yao Yuen Loong

B'well Station

6-9-1940

iditto-

I am a shoe-maker, having a stall placed at the entrance of Lane 749 Yu Yuen Road, and residing at No. 1 Chung An Zeh Village off Yu Yuen Road.

At about 9 a.m. 6-9-40 whilst I was making shoes at my stall, I heard several shots fired near me and at the same time I observed two male Chinese, all wearing foreign style clothing, both armed with long barreled pistols, firing at a foreigner who was sitting in a motor car. The foreigner then returned fire at the two armed men who then concealed their pistols under their clothing and ran westward attempting to make good their escape. At the time of their decamping, a Japanese soldier arrested one of them, who talked something to the Japanese soldier and the latter released hold of him but walked away together with him west along Yu Yuen Road towards Bimburgh Road. I recognised these two armed men as being the men who had been loitering in the vicinity of the entrance of Lane 749 Yu Yuen Road for about a week and sometime they asked me about my business, meal, etc., in Shanghai dialect. They used to come at about 5 a.m. daily but I did not know what time they left there because I returned home at about 7 p.m. every day, when they were found still loitering there.

The following is a description of the two men:-

- (1) Age about 25, height about 5'6", round pale face, long black hair parted in the middle, wearing white foreign style suit. Shanghai dialect.
- (2) Age about 25, height about 5'7", medium build, long pale face, long black hair parted in the left, with many freckles on the face, wearing white foreign style suit.

This is my true statement.

(Signed, sworn, sworn and then printed).

Koo Yung Hwa, C.P.R. 1617

Human

C.P.R. 163

B'Well Station

6-9-1940

translated  
~~xxxxxxx~~

Clark Gth Chien Shih

I am C.P.R. 1617 employed by the B.W. and am posted on duty at Lane 750 Yu Yuen Road.

At about 9.20 a.m. 6-9-40, when I was on duty in Lane 750 Yu Yuen Road, I heard two shots fired on the roadway. I immediately came out and saw a car licence no. 8474 parked at the entrance of Lane 749 Yu Yuen Road. At the same time I heard some bystanders tell me that a case of assassination had been taken place. I immediately returned to Lane 750, entered House No. 10, where I telephoned to Subling Hill Police Station and reported the occurrence.

After telephoning the police, I again came out of Lane 750 when I discovered that a car 8474 had been driven away. According to some eye-witnesses told me, the two would-be-assassins, both wearing foreign style suit, had escaped west along Yu Yuen Road.

According to the descriptions given to me, I recalled that at about 7.30 a.m. on 6-9-40, when I was on duty at the entrance to Lane 750, I saw two foreign style dressed men stand on the South side of Yu Yuen Road and look at Lane 749. After about 5 minutes, they walk away, and talk with a shoe-maker. I then approached the shoe-maker and asked him what they were talking. The shoe-maker told me that they said he worked too slow. One of them then asked me as to why I should enter their business and then they walked away west along Yu Yuen Road. At about 11 a.m. 4-9-40, I again saw these two men standing outside Lane 750 Yu Yuen Road, underneath two trees and looked into Lane 749. They walked away after about five minutes. At about 4 p.m. on 5-9-40, I saw these two men walk out of Lane 749 and walk west along Yu Yuen Road. According to my point of view, they are Komeans.

This is my true statement. (Signed & cross-marked).

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
No. S. D. D. 359  
9 9 40

7-7-40 Am.

TAIPEI SHIMPO

MR. R.W. YORKE ATTACKED BY CHUNGKING TERRORISTS (?)

It is believed that Mr. R.W. Yorke, Chief of the Special Branch of the S.M.P., was attacked by Chungking terrorists because his attitude towards the Japanese had been gradually assuming a conciliatory tone in recent days.

INDEXED BY  
(S.S.) BUREAU  
DATE 9/9/40  
m



September 7, 1940. *Jm*

Journal de Shanghai:-

**"DEPUTY COMMISSIONER YORKE OF S.M.P. SHOT AT WITH  
REVOLVER: FIRES SEVEN SHOTS AT ASSAILANTS ONE OF  
WHOM IS ARRESTED BY A JAPANESE GENDARME"**

An attempt to assassinate Mr. Yorke, Deputy Commissioner of the Shanghai Municipal Police, was made by two desperadoes yesterday morning in a lane off Yu Yuen Road. Mr. Yorke returned the fire. The exchange of shots had no result.

Describing the attack, Mr. Yorke stated that having boarded his motor car in front of his house, he gave orders to his chauffeur to drive into town. When the car had gone about 20 metres from the place where the lane joins Yu Yuen Road, Mr. Yorke noticed in the middle of the lane two Chinese well dressed in white flannel foreign suits, who, upon seeing the car, placed their hands in their clothing. Mr. Yorke, who has been with the S.M.P. for 27 years, made no mistake about the meaning of their action. He immediately picked up his own pistol which was lying by his side and opened fire at his assailants at the same moment that the latter began to fire.

As the motor car was continuing on its way, Mr. Yorke's aim was necessarily not so precise but it sufficiently upset the assailants for their shots missed their mark. The chauffeur succeeded in driving out of the lane which was deserted at the time.

Mr. Yorke fired seven shots at the two men. One of them fled towards the end of the lane, the other went towards Yu Yuen Road where he ran into the arms of a Japanese gendarme who seized him and disappeared with him in a westerly direction.

Having no more cartridges, Mr. Yorke proceeded to Bubbling Well Police Station to make a report, and afterwards he left immediately for his office at Police Headquarters. Three bullet marks were found on the car; one in the front mud-guard and the other two in the left-hand door. One of the bullets after having passed through the door was embedded in the back seat a few centimetres from the spot where Mr. Yorke was seated.

If paid assassins are aiming high, they should recognize that their task will be more difficult than that of attacking poor defenceless and terrorized Chinese. It is recalled that when Lieut. P. Blanchet, Chief of the French Police, was attacked, he single-handed gave battle to six assailants and succeeded in putting them to flight although he was wounded in two places: one in the shoulder and one in his side.

Shun Pao, Sin Wan Pao, Chinese-American Daily News, National Herald, Central China Daily News, Bing Pao :-

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF A DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF S.M.P.

At about 9.10 a.m. yesterday a serious shooting case took place at the entrance of Lane 749, Yu Yuen Road in the Western District when two desperadoes attempted to assassinate Mr. R.W. Yorke, Deputy Commissioner of the Special Branch of the S.M.P., who lives at No. 7, Lane 749 Yu Yuen Road.

Mr. R.W. Yorke, aged 48, British subject, is the Deputy Commissioner of the Special Branch of the S.M.P. He has served with the Police Force for 27 years and is much trusted by his superior officers. He is very brave, smart and intelligent.

At about 9.10 a.m. yesterday, Mr. Yorke left his residence in his private motor car S.M.C. licence No. 8474 which was driven by a chauffeur named Wong (E). When the motor car had just emerged from the lane, two desperadoes, both of about 30 years of age, dressed in white flannel foreign suits, who were evidently waiting there, drew their Mauser pistols on observing the car and fired more than ten shots at Mr. Yorke. Two bullets struck the left door of his motor car, one was wedged in the door, whilst a third penetrated the left mudguard. Mr. Yorke was not terrified; he drew his service pistol and fired seven shots. Nobody on either side was injured. In view of the unfavourable situation, the desperadoes pocketed their Mauser pistols and tried to make their escape, but one man was arrested by Japanese Gendarmes soon afterwards and was taken to the Gendarmes Headquarters.

A large number of Chinese and foreign detectives and policemen were despatched to the scene by Buhling Well Police Station after receiving a report of the affair, but the second desperado had already made good his escape. Several shells were found at the place by the policemen and were taken back to the police station for investigation. The S.M.C. is paying close attention to this case and has ordered the Police to make a vigorous investigation.